

THE FALCON FLYER

December 6, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Street School Families,

It is hard to believe, but our first trimester has concluded! This means that teachers are hard at work completing report cards, which will be sent home one week from today. This is a significant task for our teachers, one which takes care and time in order to provide the most accurate, useful reports on student progress. We'd like to take the opportunity to recognize their work in this important task.

Our report cards are "standards-based," which means they are likely to be different than those we all received as school students. For a complete discussion of standards-based report cards, we'd like to invite you to review an edition of the *Floral Focus* that was written last year. You can retrieve a copy of this issue on our website under the "Communications" tab, or simply follow this link:

<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Floral/Downloads08-09/FloralFocusIssue4.pdf>

We're also excited to be presenting our School Improvement Plan to the School Committee this Wednesday evening. These plans, presented annually for all schools, are examples of our deeply-held value of *continuous improvement*. We would like to thank our School Council members for their contributions in developing this plan – these members include parents **Sharon Connolly, Kenneth Hamm, Charlene McNally, and Cynthia Wright**, as well as community member **Kathleen Rivenburg**. We hope you have a chance to view the presentation on Channel 29 beginning at 7:00pm this Wednesday evening!

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Important Notes:

Holiday Gifts

We recognize that some parents have a tradition of giving gifts to their children's teacher(s) during this time of year. If you are planning to do so – **and please understand that it is by no means expected or required** – we would like to remind you of certain limitations on these gifts. Last year, state law that governs ethics and public employees was clarified and strengthened, with an emphasis on public employees not accepting gifts that have a value of \$50 or more. **This also applies to gifts purchased by a group of parents for an individual teacher**, something room parents have facilitated in the past. While we know all gifts are an expression of support and thoughtful generosity, we ask for your assistance in helping us to comply with this law and not putting teachers or other staff members in the awkward position of having to decline or return a gift.

PTO

There are a number of fundraising and community-building events currently being facilitated by the PTO:

Ski Ward: Once again the Floral Street School PTO has partnered with Ski Ward to offer students and families of Floral Street School the opportunity to register for ski and snowboarding lessons this season. For more details or to register, visit the Ski Ward website at www.skiward.com and click on the “weekday programs” link under the Snow School box and print the Floral Street Registration form. All programs are for 5 weeks beginning January 7, 2011. At the end of the program Ski Ward is offering a free lift ticket to all program participants. Ski and snowboard lessons are available for children ages 4 thru 14. **Registration deadline for all programs is Monday Dec 6, 2010.** If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Harrington from the Floral Street PTO at harringtonjm@verizon.net. Thank you for your support!

The Elementary Lunch Menu can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Dates

December 7	School Council (7:30am)
December 8	Presentation to School Committee of School Improvement Plan
December 13	Trimester 1 Report Cards issued
December 24 - January 2	No School – December Vacation
January 17	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 21-25	No School – Presidents’ Day & Winter Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at:

http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf